

Transportation Expansion & Congestion Mitigation Fund

Frequently Asked Questions

DEC 2023

1. What is the TECM fund?

The Transportation Expansion and Congestion Mitigation (TECM) fund was established by the Idaho Legislature in 2017 and later included a provision allowing the fund to be used as debt service on bonds. In May 2021 the TECM fund was increased both with one-time money and annual money from 1% to 4.5%, and not less than \$80 million, of general sales tax.

2. What is Leading Idaho and how does it relate to transportation?

Leading Idaho is Governor Brad Little's statewide initiative to provide Idahoans historic tax relief and make strategic investments in transportation, education, broadband, water, capital construction, and other critical areas to propel our state forward. To address Idaho's rapid growth and aging infrastructure, the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) received additional funds from the governor's initiative to make deliberate investments in critical corridors to create greater connectivity for all citizens of Idaho.

3. Is this program the same as GARVEE?

No. Similar to the TECM program, the past GARVEE program enabled ITD to implement projects quickly to allow users to benefit from the improvements and significant savings in both time and money sooner through the use of bond sale proceeds.

GARVEE: ITD's previous bonding program, the Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle (GARVEE), transformed six corridors by bonding \$1.2 billion of federal dollars to fund safety enhancement and congestion relief projects.

TECM: This program will focus on congestion and expansion projects statewide. It is anticipated that the TECM direct-pay and funds from bond sales could yield up to \$1.2 billion in state funds over the life of the program.

4. Will the TECM money come from property or income taxes?

No. The TECM funds come from the general fund as general sales taxes.

5. How does this offset to the TECM fund from general sales tax affect funding for schools, healthcare, etc.?

The legislature determines the allocation of sales tax to certain agencies and programs each year. The proceeds dedicated to the TECM program will be used to address congestion and expansion of the highway system and provide critical improvements around the state.

6. How many bond sales has ITD done for TECM, and how long will it take to pay them off?

ITD has issued two TECM bond series to provide funds for construction projects with an average interest rate of 3.7 percent. Another bond sale is planned for early 2024 and the final one is anticipated to be sold in late 2024 or early 2025.

Idaho's TECM bonds are being issued over multiple years with a 25-year term for each series and structured to have the annual debt service essentially the same each year. The annual debt service is anticipated to fully consume the \$80 million TECM funds, and the last debt service payment will be made in 2051 (assuming a bond sale in 2025).



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7. Which roadways will the TECM funds focus on?

ITD identified corridors that are critical to enhance safety, mobility, and to sustain Idaho's strong economy well into the future. The corridors that already have designated TECM funding include:

- I-90, Washington State Line to Coeur d'Alene
- US-95 and US-12 Clearwater River Crossings
- SH-16, I-84 to SH-44
- I-84, Ada and Canyon Counties
- US-20/26, I-84 to Star Road
- SH-55, Sunnyslope to Nampa
- SH-75, Timmerman Junction to Ketchum
- I-84, Jerome to Twin Falls
- I-84, Burley and Heyburn Interchanges
- I-15, Pocatello to Idaho Falls

Two additional TECM corridors are not currently receiving TECM funds:

- SH-44, I-84 to Star
- US-20 Ashton to SH-87.

8. How are projects being identified?

ITD has a long ongoing list of needed projects. As projects in approved TECM corridors are ready for construction, they will be presented to the Idaho Transportation Board for possible funding through the Idaho TECM program.

9. How long is a typical project life cycle?

An ITD project includes three key phases: 1) environmental, 2) design and right of way, and 3) construction. The duration of each project varies and is specifically dependent on project scope and funding availability.

10. How will the maintenance for these projects be funded?

Once ITD selects a project for construction, it will address staffing and resources accordingly to maintain the roadway.

11. What feedback opportunities will the public have?

Opportunities for public involvement will be determined on a project-by-project level. Please visit the project pages at itdprojects.idaho.gov.

12. Where can I find the most up-to-date information?

Current information on the program can be found at itd.idaho.gov/TECMfunding.

Project-specific information can be found at itdprojects.idaho.gov.



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